



## **Opposition Letter to HJR19**

Date: December 4, 2018

CC: Governor John Kasich, Ohio General Assembly, Statehouse Press Corps

Dear Speaker Smith and President Obhof,

Direct democracy is at the heart of Ohio's values, and citizens have been using ballot initiatives for over a century. Without the ability to bring policies directly to the people through the ballot, Ohio citizens are unable to act on issues of grave importance that elected officials have otherwise ignored. The ballot initiative process is already onerous and not overused. Since 1950, only ten out of 44 ballot measures have passed (23%).

While proponents of HJR19 suggest that it will decrease money in politics, HJR19 will actually stifle grassroots efforts in direct democracy. By making direct democracy harder, only groups with access to large amounts of money and the ability to pay petition gatherers will be able to place policies on the ballot.

Our coalition is strong and growing, and we ask you to abandon this attack on Ohio's participatory government. If you have questions, you can contact Jen Miller at the League of Women Voters of Ohio at [director@lwvohio.org](mailto:director@lwvohio.org) or 614.563.9543 and Catherine Turcer at Common Cause at [cturcer@commoncause.org](mailto:cturcer@commoncause.org) or 614.579.5509.

Sincerely,

A. Philip Randolph Institute of Ohio  
AAUW Ohio  
ACLU of Ohio  
Action Together - NE Ohio  
Action Together Lakewood Area  
AFSCME Ohio Council 8  
AHEAD: Allen & Hardin for Election Action & Democracy  
All Voting is Local  
Allen and Hardin for Election, Action and Democracy (AHEAD)  
America Votes - Ohio  
American Promise Association, Cincinnati  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Buckeye Environmental Network

Capital Success LLC  
Cleveland VOTES  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionist, Region V  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio  
College Hill + RRT  
Columbus Community Bill of Rights  
Common Cause Ohio  
Council on American Islamic Relations - Ohio  
Dayton NAACP Youth Council  
Democratic Voices of Ohio  
District 14 Voice  
Equality Ohio  
Fair Districts Cleveland  
Faith in Public Life Ohio  
For Our Future Ohio  
Indivisible CLE  
Indivisible Columbus District 3  
Indivisible Forward United NEO  
Indivisible Ohio District 15  
Indivisible: Ohio District 12  
Innovation Ohio  
IUE-CWA  
League of Women Voters of Ohio  
Lorain County Rising  
March for Science: Cleveland  
Medina County Together  
Miami Valley Full Employment Council  
Moving Forward Together, Ashtabula County  
NAACP Cleveland Branch  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates  
OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4  
OH District 5 Indivisible  
Ohio AFL-CIO  
Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund  
Ohio Citizen Action  
Ohio Civil Service Employees Association  
Ohio Conference AAUP  
Ohio Conference of NAACP  
Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio Farmers Union  
Ohio Federation of Teachers  
Ohio Justice & Policy Center

Ohio National Organization for Women  
Ohio Organizing Collaborative  
Ohio Student Association  
Ohio Veterans Network  
Ohio Voice  
Ohio Voter Fund  
Ohio Voter Rights Coalition  
Ohio Progressive Action Leaders  
Piedmont Plus/a Sub-Group of Indivisible District 12  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio  
Policy Matters Ohio  
ProgressNEO  
ProgressOhio  
RadioactiveWasteAlert.org  
RepresentUs  
SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH  
Single Payer Action Network Ohio  
Southeast Progressives of Franklin County  
Take Back Our Republic  
Thrive\_At\_Life: Working Solutions  
UFCW Local 1059  
UFCW Local 75  
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio  
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio  
Westshore Fair Elections  
Work Group for a Bold New Democracy, Cincinnati